

Under the Republican plan to repeal health reform, small businesses will not be able to receive \$40 billion in tax credits that will allow them to cover employees; insurance premiums will continue to rise, forcing businesses to cut benefits and lay off employees; and they will add to the deficit, exploding it to \$1 trillion over the next 20 years, creating more uncertainty in our economy.

Instead of serving hardworking American families, Republicans would rather have American small businesses serve greedy health insurance companies. Republicans are proving yet again that they are indeed the party of "no"—no relief, no health care, no jobs.

I urge my colleagues to stand with American small businesses and workers and resist any attempt to repeal health reform.

HOLD ON TO THE CONSTITUTION

(Mr. FRANKS of Arizona asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, in a few moments, the United States Constitution will be read for the first time in a long time in this Chamber. And I, for one, Mr. Speaker, am glad to see this welcomed day come.

I know there are those that will dismiss it as symbolic. But I remember the words of Daniel Webster when he said, "Hold on, my friends, to the Constitution and to the Republic for which it stands. Miracles do not cluster, and what has happened once in 6,000 years may never happen again. Hold on to the Constitution, for if the American Constitution should fail, there will be anarchy throughout the world."

Mr. Speaker, I hope, as we go forward in this new Congress, that we will all hold Mr. Webster's words in our hearts.

DON'T TAMPER WITH HIGHWAY TRUST FUND

(Mr. COURTNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, despite repeated warnings yesterday from groups as diverse as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Ironworkers, the Laborers, the American Trucking Association, even the Motorcycle Riders of America, Republicans adopted a new rule which allows Congress to tamper with the transportation authorization fund and the highway trust fund. And despite the protests from the majority that it wasn't doing it, yesterday, UBS-PaineWebber put out a stock advisory that transportation construction companies were being downgraded because of the damage that the Congress did yesterday.

Mr. Speaker, the transportation and construction sector of our country is in a depression. There is 25 percent unemployment. The last thing this country needs is to tamper with the highway

trust fund. And yesterday, that's what the new majority did.

The Democrats will fight to restore the transportation authorization fund, make sure that America has the transportation system that it needs, and get people back to work in the hardest-hit sector in the American economy.

TIME TO GET TO WORK FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, yesterday we began a very important new chapter in the history of this great Nation as we began the 112th Congress. I was so proud to join so many of our new Members in taking the oath of office. The enthusiasm and the commitment that was shown by our new colleagues, as well as those of us who were honored enough to be re-elected, to take on the great challenges facing our Nation, I think, will be remembered as a historic pivot for our country.

The Constitution, which we will soon read here on the floor of the House, states that one of the primary purposes of the Federal Government is to "preserve the blessings of liberty for ourselves and our posterity." For far too long, the Federal Government has been mortgaging those blessings for our prosperity by burying them under a mountain of debt. And that must end.

We have a responsibility, Mr. Speaker, to make the tough decisions to cut spending, to eliminate the Federal deficit and begin to pay down the immense debt that threatens the opportunities that will be available for our children and our grandchildren. Our work will be difficult but it must be done. Let us all face up to these challenges and get to work.

TAKING THE OPPOSITE APPROACH

(Mr. WALZ of Minnesota asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Yesterday a new Congress was sworn into office, and just like the one before it, a top priority is to get our economy moving in the right direction. I'm profoundly disappointed, though, that the new majority of the Republicans has decided to take the opposite approach: skyrocketing the debt, denying rights, and making sure we kill jobs.

Seniors in my district now have access to better preventative care and help with paying for expensive drugs. Americans who have worked long and hard throughout their life have earned that peace of mind. Young people in my district are now being put back on their parents' insurance after being denied for preexisting conditions. Repealing the health care bill will take those benefits away, will kill jobs, will sky-

rocket the debt, and will ensure that insurance company CEOs make health decisions for you, not you and your doctor.

Many of you may know I represent the world-famous Mayo Clinic in my district. They provide the highest quality patient-centered and affordable care the world has ever known, and I would like to leave you with a short quote they put out right before we voted on the health care bill last year: "Reforming health care in America is essential. The status quo is not sustainable."

MILLARD SOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

(Mr. FORTENBERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, yesterday afternoon a suspended student at Millard South High School in suburban Omaha opened fire. Assistant Principal Vicki Kaspar was killed, and Principal Curtis Case remains in serious condition. After fleeing the school, the student killed himself.

This morning Nebraska has been blanketed by a profound wave of shock and sorrow. My heart goes out to the victims and their families and the innocent schoolchildren whose first day back at school was shattered by this nightmarish act. Today school is closed as counselors begin to help the community to try to cope and make sense out of what can be considered a senseless act of violence.

I ask for this body's thoughts and prayers, Mr. Speaker, to be with those students and teachers, their families, and all members of the Millard South community in the aftermath of this horrific tragedy.

REJECTING REPEAL OF AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of my constituent, David Zoltan-Breiger, 33 years old, who now has coverage under Illinois' Pre-Existing Condition Plan thanks to the Affordable Care Act.

David has diabetes. Because of his preexisting condition, he couldn't get insurance for over 2 years after losing his job. David is absolutely elated that he no longer has to wait for hours in the emergency room to get lifesaving insulin. Without coverage, the ER was his only option. Instead, he now has regular visits with the doctor and can avoid the medical crises that had become a frequent nightmare.

What happens to David under repeal of the bill? He, like so many others, would lose coverage and once again be at the mercy of insurance companies.

We cannot go back. We must reject the Republican call for repeal of the Affordable Care Act.

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THE TRAGEDY AT MILLARD SOUTH

(Mr. TERRY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I want to follow up with my colleague JEFF FORTENBERRY's thoughts.

The school in my district, Millard South, endured the ultimate tragedy when a student, who was suspended, returned with a gun. He walked into the assistant principal's office and shot her. Ms. Kaspar later died.

My profound sorrow of this incident—the ultimate parents' nightmare. My kids attend that school district; so we were getting the call about the lockdown. I don't think there is anything more disturbing to a parent anywhere than when the veil of safety of a school has been pierced by such violence.

The principal, who was also shot, is going to survive. He is also a neighbor of ours, and so I am glad that he will be fine.

I ask this floor and our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join the Omaha community in expressing the depth of our sorrows. I ask for your prayers for not only the students of that school but for all of the teachers, for the family of the assistant principal who died, and for the principal who is fighting for his life right now. I appreciate everyone's concern.

THE HYPOCRISY OF THE ELIMINATION OF PAYGO

(Mr. MORAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MORAN. Horrible tragedies like that cited by the two previous speakers remind us that there are simply too many guns too readily available to too many children. It has got to stop.

On a very different subject, though, Mr. Speaker, when Ronald Reagan ran for President, he said that any President who does not submit a balanced budget should be impeached. He never did balance a budget. In fact, the only times that our budget has been balanced was during the Clinton administration as a result of what is called PAYGO—that you don't increase spending without increasing a concomitant amount of revenue; and you don't cut taxes without immediately cutting the same amount of spending. That worked. We had three successive years of budget surpluses, and we passed on a \$5.6 trillion projected surplus to the Bush administration.

Yet, as soon as the new Republican Congress came in at the beginning of the 21st century, they eliminated PAYGO. Two wars, two deep tax cuts and a massive expansion of Medicare were never paid for. As a result, we had a \$9 trillion fiscal reversal. When the

Democrats came back in, we reinstated it; but yesterday the new Republican Congress exempted \$5 trillion from PAYGO—\$4 trillion of unpaid-for tax cuts and \$1.3 trillion of savings we could have gotten from health care reform.

It is the height of hypocrisy and deeply disappointing.

THE 14TH AMENDMENT OF THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES

(Mr. PERLMUTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PERLMUTTER. I first want to extend the sympathies of Colorado and of the Representatives to our friends from Nebraska. We suffered the Columbine tragedy a number of years ago, so we definitely understand how painful something like this is.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose for me rising today is to talk about what has been given to this country in the form of the Constitution, particularly in the 14th Amendment.

I would say to my friend from Texas, "nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty or property without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

Until we passed that affordable health care act, people with pre-existing conditions were being denied equal protection of the laws. We passed that. They now have freedom from discrimination. Yet my friends on the Republican side of the aisle want to take away that freedom. That's wrong. That's wrong for people in my district and for millions of people across the country because they, their kids, their families, and their friends have different physical conditions that require attention and must be covered and not discriminated against.

THE SUPREME COURT NEEDS A LESSON

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, in a few minutes, we are going to have the reading of the United States Constitution—a show for the American public—for anybody who knows anything about constitutional law knows that it is up to nine men and women as to what the Constitution says.

When the Constitution was originally drafted—and I love it and I defend it—it didn't give women the right to vote, and it said slavery was permissible. Until the vilified Warren Court, in its correct decision in Brown v. Board of Education, it said separate was equal, and we knew it wasn't. African Americans were held back with Jim Crow laws.

Five people on the Supreme Court, not the whole nine, can make decisions that change the way the Constitution is interpreted.

Bush v. Gore, an abomination of a case that determined the Presidency for 8 years and took away States' rights. The Citizens United case funded the opposition that turned in the majority that the Republicans now have.

Making corporations the equal of people and putting money into politics poisoned the political system. The Supreme Court should read the Constitution. They need a lesson.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings is a violation of the rules of the House.

CALL OF THE HOUSE

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I move a call of the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 7(b) of rule XX, the Chair confers recognition for that purpose.

A call of the House was ordered.

The call was taken by electronic device, and the following Members responded to their names:

[Roll No. 7]

Ackerman	Cardoza	Edwards
Adams	Carnahan	Ellison
Aderholt	Carney	Ellmers
Akin	Carson (IN)	Emerson
Alexander	Carter	Engel
Altmire	Cassidy	Eshoo
Amash	Castor (FL)	Farenthold
Andrews	Chabot	Farr
Austria	Chaffetz	Fattah
Baca	Chandler	Filner
Bachus	Chu	Fincher
Baldwin	Cicilline	Flake
Barletta	Clarke (MI)	Fleischmann
Barrow	Clay	Fleming
Bartlett	Cleaver	Flores
Barton (TX)	Clyburn	Forbes
Bass (CA)	Coble	Fortenberry
Bass (NH)	Coffman (CO)	Fox
Becerra	Cohen	Franks (AZ)
Benishek	Conaway	Frelinghuysen
Berg	Connolly (VA)	Fudge
Berkley	Cooper	Galleghy
Berman	Costello	Garamendi
Biggert	Courtney	Gardner
Bishop (GA)	Cravaack	Garrett
Bishop (NY)	Crawford	Gerlach
Black	Crenshaw	Gibbs
Blackburn	Critz	Gibson
Blumenauer	Crowley	Giffords
Bonner	Cuellar	Gingrey (GA)
Bono Mack	Culberson	Gohmert
Boren	Cummings	Gonzalez
Boswell	Davis (CA)	Goodlatte
Boustany	Davis (IL)	Gosar
Brady (PA)	Davis (KY)	Gowdy
Brady (TX)	DeFazio	Granger
Braley (IA)	DeGette	Graves (GA)
Brooks	DeLauro	Graves (MO)
Brown (FL)	Denham	Green, Al
Buchanan	Dent	Green, Gene
Bucshon	DesJarlais	Griffin (AR)
Buerkle	Deutch	Griffith (VA)
Burgess	Diaz-Balart	Grimm
Burton (IN)	Dicks	Guinta
Butterfield	Dingell	Guthrie
Calvert	Doggett	Gutierrez
Camp	Dold	Hall
Campbell	Donnelly (IN)	Hanabusa
Canseco	Doyle	Harman
Cantor	Dreier	Harper
Capito	Duffy	Harris
Capps	Duncan (SC)	Hartzler
Capuano	Duncan (TN)	